Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The majority of Americans age 60 and older are the nation's great overlooked resource, even though they are active, vital, and healthy, and the value of their contributions to our American way of life represents a tremendous productive potential; and,

Whereas, The Senior Companion Program utilizes the services of seniors who are 60 years and older to provide free in-home services and respite care to the elderly, allowing clients to receive needed services to allow them to remain in their homes; and,

Whereas, After the first four senior companions were trained in January 1979, in Sioux Falls, the program experienced a gradual expansion into rural Minnehaha, Lincoln, Turner, McCook, and Moody Counties; and,

Whereas, In 1984, expansion continued into Brookings and Lake Counties, followed by Yankton and Union Counties in 1990, Codington County in 1994, Pennington County in 1998, Mead, Lawrence, and Butte Counties in 2001, and Fall River County in 2002; and,

Whereas, Since the formation of the Senior Companion Program in South Dakota in 1978, senior companions have served an estimated 11,000 clients;

Whereas, The Senior Companion Program is grateful for the funding received from the federal government; the state of South Dakota through the Department of Social Services' Office of Adult Services and Aging; and money received from city and county governments, United Way programs, and generous private donations; and,

Whereas, The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in Sioux Falls has been an outstanding sponsor, providing 30 years of support, and can be credited for the success the program experiences today; and,

Whereas, Senior Companion Program celebrations will be held at Watertown on August 6, 2008; Sioux Falls on August 13, 2008; and Rapid City on October 3, 2008:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 8, 2008; August 18, 2008; and October 3, 2008, as

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM DAYS

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State